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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

71867 7590 03/26/2010

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD
ATTORNEYS FOR CLIENT NUMBER 007412
1100 13th STREET, N.W.
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-4051

EXAMINER

CHEA, PHILIP J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2453

DATE MAILED: 03/26/2010

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/570,832

02/05/2007

Richard Woundy

007412.00105

8763

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INTERNET PROTOCOL PROVISIONING OF CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1510	\$300	\$0	\$1810	06/28/2010

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

**Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
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or Fax (571)-273-2885**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Use Block 1 for any change of address)

71867 7590 03/26/2010

BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD
ATTORNEYS FOR CLIENT NUMBER 007412
1100 13th STREET, N.W.
SUITE 1200
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-4051

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/570,832 02/05/2007 Richard Woundy 007412.00105 8763

TITLE OF INVENTION: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR INTERNET PROTOCOL PROVISIONING OF CUSTOMER PREMISES EQUIPMENT

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
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nonprovisional NO \$1510 \$300 \$0 \$1810 06/28/2010

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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CHEA, PHILIP J 2453 709-220000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
- ☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. **Use of a Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1 _____
- (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2 _____
- 3 _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.11. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE (B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent) : ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
- ☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
- ☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s); (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____

Date _____

Typed or printed name _____

Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/570,832	02/05/2007	Richard Woundy	007412.00105	8763
71867	7590	03/26/2010	EXAMINER	
BANNER & WITCOFF, LTD ATTORNEYS FOR CLIENT NUMBER 007412 1100 13th STREET, N.W. SUITE 1200 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-4051			CHEA, PHILIP J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2453	
			DATE MAILED: 03/26/2010	

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/570,832	WOUNDY, RICHARD	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	PHILIP J. CHEA	2453	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendmend filed 2/5/10.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-7,14-17,20-30,33.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |
|---|---|

/Philip J Chea/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2453

Art Unit: 2453

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Kumar Ravula on 3/10/10.

The application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please see attached.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art does not teach nor render obvious each and every claimed limitation. Specifically, the prior art does not teach STB IP provisioning requests from STBs provided by at least two different vendors, through a signaling pathway that uses a firewall to separate a management network from a data network housing a network provisioning unit, the management network and the data network functioning on a content distribution side of a network and the firewall provides separation for a video-on-demand controller and STB controller portion of the management network from the data network and provisioning the STB using a first protocol such that the provisioning is standardized for each of the at least two different vendors.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHILIP J. CHEA whose telephone number is (571)272-3951. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:30-4:00 (1st Friday Off).

Art Unit: 2453

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached on 571-272-6776. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Philip J Chea
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2453

/Philip J Chea/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2453
3/11/10

Art Unit: 2453

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - receiving STB IP provisioning requests from STBs, provided by at least two different vendors, through a signaling pathway that uses a firewall to separate a management network from a data network housing a network provisioning unit (NPU), the management network and the data network functioning on a content distribution side of a network;
 - identifying one of the at least two different vendors associated with the STBs;
 - identifying STB IP provisioning data associated with each identified vendor; and
 - transmitting the identified STB IP provisioning data from the NPU to the STBs requesting the STB IP provisioning, through the signaling pathway, wherein the identified STB IP provisioning data is outputted according to a first protocol such that the provisioning of the STBs is standardized for each of the at least two different vendors,

wherein the firewall provides separation for a video-on-demand (VOD) controller and STB controller portion in the management network from the data network.

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2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising determining the vendor of the requesting STB using the NPU based on an STB vendor identifier included in the STB IP provisioning request.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the NPU includes a database comprising IP provisioning data associated by vendor identifiers with a plurality of STB vendors, and wherein determining the vendor of the requesting STB includes searching the database for a vendor identifier that matches with the STB vendor identifier.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3 wherein the STB vendor identifier includes at least one of a serial number, a hardware version, a software version, an Organization Unique Identifier (OUI), a model number, or a vendor name.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein each STB is associated with Customer Premise Equipment (CPE) and wherein each CPE includes an embedded cable modem (eCM), and the method further comprises bridging IP signals through the eCM to the STB.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the first protocol is defined according to a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

- 8-13. (Canceled)

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14. (Currently Amended) A system for Internet Protocol (IP) provisioning over a network, the system comprising:

a plurality of set top boxes (STBs) in communication with the network, at least two of the STBs provided by at least two different vendors, each STB configured to transmit, according to a first protocol, IP provisioning requests through a signaling pathway that uses a firewall to separate a management network from a data network within the network, the management network and the data network functioning on a content distribution side of the network; and

a network provisioning unit (NPU) within the data network, the NPU configured to receive the STB IP provisioning requests, identify one of the at least two different vendors associated with the STBs, identify STB IP provisioning data associated with each identified vendor, and transmit the identified STB IP provisioning data through the signaling pathway, wherein the identified STB IP provisioning data is transmitted according to the first protocol such that the provisioning of the STBs is standard for the at least two different vendors in so far as each STB utilizes the first protocol for provisioning.

~~wherein the firewall provides separation for a video-on-demand (VOD) controller and STB controller portion in the management network from the data network.~~

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15. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14 wherein the NPU selects the provisioning data according to the vendor of the requesting STB.

16. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 15 wherein the NPU determines the vendor of the requesting STB vendor identifier included in the STB IP provisioning request.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 16 wherein the NPU includes a database comprising IP provisioning data associated by vendor identifiers with a plurality of STB vendors, and wherein the NPU determines the vendor of the requesting STB by searching the database for a vendor identifier that matches with the STB vendor identifier.

18-19. Cancelled

20. (Original) The system of claim 14 wherein the first protocol is defined according to a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP).

21. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving provisioning requests from STBs through a signaling pathway that uses a firewall to separate a management network from a data network housing a network provisioning

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unit (NPU), the management network and the data network functioning on a content distribution side of an information distribution network;

identifying at least one of the STBs requesting the provisioning to be associated with a first vendor and at least another one of the STBs requesting the provisioning to be associated with a second vendor;

identifying provisioning instructions associated with each identified vendor; and

providing the provisioning instructions to the requesting STBs according to the different instructional requirements of the first and second vendors identified to be associated with the requesting STBs through the signaling pathway, the provisioning instructions being sufficient to program the requesting STBs to execute a set of operations associated with supporting media services provided by a media service provider.

wherein the firewall provides separation for a video-on-demand (VOD) controller and STB controller portion in the management network from the data network.

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22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the provisioning requests are received and the provisioning instructions are sent according to a same protocol.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the media provider provides the media services with assistance from a first and second headend unit, and wherein the method further comprises adjusting the provisioning instructions depending on whether the requesting STBs are associated with the first or second headend unit.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21 wherein the media provider provides the media services with assistance from a first and second headend unit that are respectively associated with third and fourth vendors and the STBs have different instructional requirements depending on whether the STBs are receiving signals from the headend of the third or fourth vendor, wherein the method further comprises providing the provisioning instructions to the requesting STBs according to the different instructional requirements of the first and second vendors as well as the third and fourth vendors.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the first and second vendors are different from the third and fourth vendors.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the third vendor is different from the fourth vendor.

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27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein at least one of the first or second vendors is the same as one of the third or fourth vendors.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21 wherein the STBs are configured to process television signals for output to a display and the method further comprises transmitting the provisioning instructions to the STBs over the information distribution network.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said network is an information distribution network.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 14, wherein said network is an information distribution network.

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 including processing the first IP provisioning requests from a first STB from the first vendor and processing the second IP provisioning requests from a second STB from the second vendor.